

Vol. II, Issue 32



Telling the Camp Victory story

March 30, 2006

## 738th ASMC treats servicemembers

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

The 738th Area Support Medical Company, Indiana National Guard, is made up of a rather small contingent of soldiers responsible for the health of thousands of personnel here. Though small, these Soldiers continue to keep Camp Victory personnel alive and healthy.

"Our number one priority is to provide world class health care to the servicemembers and civilians here on post," said Maj. Jeffrey T. Williams, commander, 738th ASMC. "With the level of care and evacuation capabilities, we are more than capable to handle our mission."

The members of the 738th work day and night on 24-hour rotations providing medical care to any personnel that may need it.

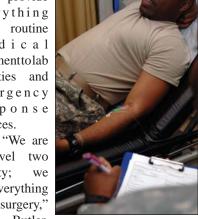
"We have one health care provider on call 24 hours a day," said 1st Sgt. Thomas E. Butler, company first sergeant, 738th ASMC. "Even if Soldiers come in after sick call hours we will never turn them away from care."

The care servicemembers receive from

the Golby Medical Clinic is extensive.

They provide everything from routine medical treatmenttolab facilities and e m e r g e n c y response services.

a level two facility; we do everything but surgery," said Butler. Support the one at the International



A Patient at Golby Medical "Combat Clinic is screened by a medical technician. The 738th Area Support Medical Company, is Hospitals, like responsible for the health of thousands of personnel here.

Zone, take what we cannot handle, but we have every capability to get the patients

The patients that come through the doors of the medical center are as numerous as its responsibilities.

"We take care of the full spectrum of patients," said Sgt. 1st Class Bruce P. Cunningham, platoon sergeant, 738th ASMC. "Routine allergies, sports injuries and traumas, we get it all."

The center averages 50 patients a day and handles all mass casualty evacuations here.

"We also have patient holding areas for those troops being evacuated to Landstuhl or to the states depending on the injury," said Butler. "Along with medical treatment we also provide post deployment medical screenings here, something that all personnel have to attend before heading back home."

The soldiers of the 738th do not just take care of patients; they also take care of themselves.

"We are pretty self sufficient," said Butler. "We have our own ambulances, motor pool, medical and unit supplies; we also take care of all our own maintenance."

The 738th also provides service to Iragis as well.

"We have several medics out there training and teaching the Iraqis medical skills," said Cunningham.

With such a large amount of responsibilities and only a few Soldiers, the command has See ASMC, page 4

# Camp Victory Three-day forecast

### Friday



Sunny High: 85 F Low: 60 F

### Saturday



Mostly Cloudy High: 86 F Low: 61 F

### Sunday



**T-Storms** High: 81 F Low: 59 F

### In today's Victory Times:

Page 2: Red Cross support, Letters from home

Page 3: Medical Det. change of command Chaplain's Corner

Page 5: Camp Victory operating hours

## Red Cross supports our troops and our families

Story by Spc. Curt Squires

The American Red Cross communicates on behalf of family members to servicemembers stationed around the world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

ARC provides services to more than 1.4 million active duty personnel and their families, as well as 800,000 members of the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve who reside in nearly every community in America, according to www.redcross.org.

Of the three ARC stations in Iraq, the station here has handled more than 2,900 emergency messages since Jan. 1, 2006, accumulating roughly 33 percent of the total number for Iraq.

The ARC's major role in theater is providing commanders with accurate information so the servicemember and commander can make a leave decision, said Deanna Young, team leader, American Red Cross, Camp Victory, Iraq.

An example of this is if someone emails a servicemember informing them a loved one has suffered a heart attack.

"Well, what kind of heart attack?" Young questioned. "Is it where you need to get on the next plane because their having a quadruple bypass today, or is it a minimal one where they need to change their diet and introduce some physical fitness. And then

you may not need to go home on leave at the point."

Not all the messages delivered by the Red Cross are of a negative or urgent matter, said Young.

The Red Cross does deliver non-urgent messages such as births of children and other personal messages from family members, continued Young.

If you receive a non-emergency message, it does not go through the servicemember's chain-of-command, she added. There is no leave decision, and the messages are normally personal in nature, so it goes directly to the servicemember.

"Needless to say, that doesn't mean folks should assume they know who it is from, and what it is about; we still need to speak with that servicemember directly," Young said.

To send an emergency message to a service member, families can call the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center at 877-272-7337.

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Burton. The ARC has been working with the military since the Spanish-American War in 1898 until the present Global War on Terrorism.

According to www.redcross.org, the ARC staff has delivered more than 250,000 emergency messages in Iraq since the war began. ARC has also distributed 200,000 comfort kits and 70,000 calling cards to those serving in Iraq.

## Letters from home

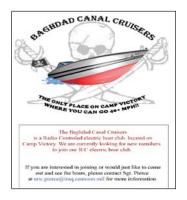
Spc. Michael J. Woods, MNC-I, Command Group,

Jason-Gosh, do I miss you!! Realizing that, it has to be the best part of everyday for me. It proves to my heart how much we really love each other, and only God can do that!! Thank you for your dedication to our family and to the world's families. You are my hero! God bless you and keep you safe!

Love your BEST friend, Kim









## Medical detachment holds change of command

Story by 1st Lt. Anthony L. Pittelkau

898th Medical Detachment

Capt. James J. Meckel accepted command of the 898th Medical Detachment, 30th Medical Brigade from Lt. Col. Sonya S. Schleich in a ceremony here March 21.

Schleich served as a medical entomologist for the Center of Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-West, Fort Lewis, Wash. before becoming the commander of the reserve preventive medicine detachment in 2005. From Camp Victory, Schleich is headed to Ft. Lewis, Wash. where she will resume her former role in CHPPM-W.

Meckel comes to the 898th Medical Detachment from his position as a Professional Officer Filler System executive officer, 981st Medical Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade, Kuwait.

Meckel has completed overseas tours in Korea and Kuwait. His stateside assignments included serving as the executive officer for the Clinical Support Division, Operations officer and Medical Company commander, all at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He also completed a tour as an Army Medical Department Health Care recruiter in



Lt. Col. Sonya S. Schleich, commander, 898th Medical Detachment, passes the quidon to Lt. Col. William B. Grimes, commander, Multifunctional Medical Brigade. during the 898th Med. Bde. change of command ceremony here March 21.

Huntington, W. V.

Meckel is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Principles of Military Preventive Medicine course and is currently enrolled in the Intermediate Level Education course. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University in Ada, Okla. and a Masters of Public Health degree in epidemiology from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

His awards and decorations include Photo by 898th Med. Det. the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with five oak-leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Recruiter's Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

# Chaplain's Corner

"I Just Don't Feel Thankful"

Chaplain (MAJ) Charles M. Herring **MNC-I Chaplain Section** 

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

The battle was over. They held their ground against the enemy. However, the victory was paid in blood. Several Soldiers were wounded and one soldier was killed. Afterward, sitting on the median curb cleaning their weapons they began to talk in low serious tones. Most were talking about how thankful they were to be alive. One Soldier, his face covered in sweat streamed dirt, stopped, looked at his sergeant and slowly said, "God, forgive me, I just don't feel thankful!"

The stress of a Soldier's life has a way of blinding us to the strengths of a soldier's life. I noticed in myself and after talking to some soldiers that we felt embarrassed over being "weak" and ashamed to acknowledge our "weakness." It was hard to accept with appreciation the help we received from others.

My Father in heaven did not need my gratitude. The point is I needed to be grateful. Now, I honestly believe that thankfulness is a powerful healing force in a warrior's spirit. A grateful heart deepens faith. A thankful heart enhances the quality of life. A heart of gratitude is an honest heart. I need to thank God when I am in the depths of despair as well as the heights of hopefulness. How did I and how can you be grateful, regardless of daily "combat" stresses? Three focal points made the difference for me.

First, thankfully focus on simple things: family and comrades in arms. I carried a photo of Mrs. Herring in my journal to remind me of her love and support every time I opened it. My Chaplain Assistant, Staff Sgt. Derek Cooke, also was my "bodyguard" (Chaplains are not permitted to carry a weapon). I ate so many MRE's that I could just refer to their number instead of ingredients - "Staff Sgt. Cooke, please throw me an 11" - (Pasta with vegetables in tomato sauce). Give thanks as you continue to add up the simple things.

Second, thank God even when things really suck! Sure, it is easy to be thankful when things are going great. Thank God for sand in your eye, sand in your soda and even sand in your shorts! Now that takes work! Saint Paul reminded the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). When your feelings are raw and your heart is heavy or confused, consciously and deliberately choose to give thanks. Times of suffering remind us of God's presence and allow us to draw closer to Him.

Lastly, thank others. Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment". When was the last time you told someone, "Thanks, man." Claim these daily opportunities to bring God's love to others by expressing appreciation for their actions or presence. It costs nothing and it starts a ripple effect of thankfulness.

These battle tested Soldiers at the beginning of the story carried (and continue to carry) tremendous mission responsibilities. They simply trusted in the goodness of a God who loves them and wants only the best for them. Despite daily stress of combat patrols, these warriors lived in profound thankfulness. As you become more aware of the blessings in your life, a similar spirit of gratitude and thankfulness will gradually awaken in you.

To our Father in heaven and all the service men and women, coalition partners and the rest of the Camp Victory team this old Trooper says, "Thanks, man".

#### **ASMC**

its hands full keeping the company running smoothly, but somehow we manage to do it, said Butler.

"Our Soldiers continue to get the job done no matter what the circumstances," said Butler. "By cross training and staying flexible we are able to back fill jobs."

It is not only military training that makes the soldiers of the 738<sup>th</sup> excellent at their jobs. It is also the expertise they bring from their civilian practices that adds to their military experience, said Butler.

"We have a few nurses, numerous doctors, paramedics and one dentist, all who are medical professionals in the civilian world,"

said Cunningham.

With close to 1,500 patients a month and the possibility of mass casualty incidents, these Soldiers have their work cut out for them.

Even though their jobs can be hard and overwhelming, the Soldiers of the 738<sup>th</sup> continue to soldier on, stepping up to the plate and completing their mission, said both Williams and Butler

"The transition they (Soldiers of the 738th) have made from their civilian lifestyles to their military is excellent, they are not just providing health care but are soldiering as well," said Butler. "They are, and will continue to provide, the most excellent health care service."



Photo by Spc. Curt Squires, MNC-I PAO is currently at war.

(Right) Pvt. Joseph Boje, gunner, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, pulls security from his Humvee on Route Redwing March 20. Elements of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division control Redwing and have halted freedom of movement to Iraqi's after approximately 25 improvised explosive devices detonated on the road in the month of January.

(Left) An Irbil police officer stops traffic in downtown to allow a U.S. military convoy to pass through the city without being obstructed by downtown traffic.

Despite pay problems, the police officers in the northern Iraq city of Irbil continue to come to work, said AbduKareem Sultan Abdulla Sinjari, Minister of the Interior, Kurdistan Regional Government. The dedication is helping restore peace and happiness to a country that is currently at war

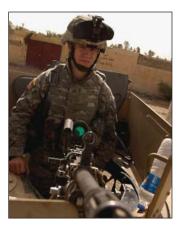


Photo by Spc. James P. Hunter, MNC-I PAO







#### MNF-I/MNC-I

HUMAN RELATIONS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
OFFICE

**PRESENTS** 

HUMAN RELATIONS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM TRAINING





LOCATION
AL FAW PALACE BALLROOM

DATES April 5, 10, 20, AND 26

> TIMES 1300 - 1500

POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS TRAINING IS THE MNC-I HR/EO OFFICE @ 822-3532/3545

### Operating hours

#### **Coalition Cafe**

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a m Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m. Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

#### Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

#### Shopette

Open 24 Hours

**Camp Liberty Post Exchange** Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Fitness Center** 

Open 24 Hours

#### Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

#### **Golby Troop Medical Clinic** Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

**Dental Sick Call:** Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

#### Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

#### Post Deployment Health Briefings: Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### ID Cards

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.





### TO THE AL FAW PALACE POST OFFICE

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

Wed. 2 - 8 p.m. Sun. 2 - 8 p.m.

Contact Camp Liberty Post Office for any questions. DSN 302-242-4391



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Lt. Col. Kennington 318-822-5419

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### MNC-I, CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD

### TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

OPEN TO ALL PERSONNEL



Tournaments will be held twice a month (the second and last Mondays).



Prizes will be awarded to the winner.



Limited to 48 people (6 tables), please sign up early. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For information or to sign up for Sgt. Joseph Mahoney April's tournaments call or email:

DSN: 822-2065 ioseph.mahonev@irag.centcom.mil



TIME: 8 p.m.

PLACE: MWR Bldg. 124

#### TOURNAMENT DATES:

April 10 and April 24







THE ARMY RESERVE HAS EXTENDED THE SRB **BONUS FOR RESERVISTS WITH UNDER 20 YEARS** OF SERVICE AND WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF ETS SEE YOUR ARMY RESERVE CAREER COUNSELOR

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Elsa.cardoza@iraq.centcom.mil



#### TAX ASSISTANCE CENTER **NOW OPEN!**



PLACE: EDUCATION CENTER, CAMP VICTORY HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, AND Friday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

DRING YOUR W-2's AND OTHER PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION! WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN FILING TAXES. FOR QUESTIONS CALL DSN 318-822-5584.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ONLY

VICTORY!

#### **Submit letters from home**

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Don't be the OTHER driver!!

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